Preliminary Amendment Serial No. 10/613,376

REMARKS

The specification has been amended at page 1 to identify that this application is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/798,448 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,600,862), which is a Continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/05513 filed August 17, 2000.

New claims 19-24 have been added to replace cancelled claims 1-18. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the new claims be approved and entered.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas HOLTZ Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C. 767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor New York, New York 10017-2023 (212) 319-4900 Fax No. (212) 319-5101

LH/iv/nps